

562,009PA
Ser. No. 10/633,136

In the Claims:

Please amend the claims by rewriting the same as follows:

1 1. (Currently Amended) An optical symbol scanner assembly for detecting and
2 decoding a symbol lying on a surface of an article, the symbol comprising a
3 pattern of fluorescent markings on a non-fluorescent surface, said fluorescent
4 markings fluorescing in the presence of black light radiation, the assembly
5 comprising:

6 a hand-held scanner device having a distal face on which is positioned light-
7 generating means for producing illumination to fall on said symbol, said light
8 generating means including at least one black-light emitting diode, and focusing
9 means for focusing an image of said symbol on an imager device positioned
10 proximally thereof within said scanner device, said focusing means defining an
11 optic axis; and

12 a shield mounted on the distal face of said scanner device, having with an
13 optical passageway having an optic axis aligned with the optic axis of said
14 scanning device, and an illumination channel within the shield for directing and
15 guiding the black light emitted by said diodes, wherein said shield is in the form of
16 a hollow nosepiece having a open, wide proximal end fitting onto the distal face of
17 said hand-held scanner device and a narrow distal end that is transparent to said
18 black light, and a tapered shell that is opaque to said black light and that narrows
19 in the direction towards the distal end, such that said black light illumination
20 impinges on said symbol and the scanner device views the symbol as produced by

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21 said fluorescent markings.

1 2. (Currently Amended) An optical symbol scanner assembly according to Claim 1
2 wherein said shield ~~is in the form of a hollow shroud, and includes at a~~ the distal
3 end thereof a plate of a material that is transparent to said black light illumination,
4 said plate traversing across the optic axis as defined by said focusing device.

5 3. (Currently Amended) An optical symbol scanner assembly according to Claim 2
6 wherein said plate of material is oriented at a non-right angle to said optic axis
7 such that the black light impinging on said plate is not reflected directly back to
8 said imager device.

1 4. (Currently Amended) An optical symbol scanner assembly according to Claim
2 1 wherein the shell of said shield is formed acrylic material, and is provided with
3 an opaque coating.

1 5. (Original) An optical symbol scanner assembly according to Claim 1 wherein
2 said light producing means includes a plurality of LEDs that produce illumination
3 in the far blue to near ultraviolet region.

1 6. (Original) An optical symbol scanner assembly according to Claim 5 wherein
2 said LEDs produce illumination between 350 nm and 420 nm.

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- 1 7. (Original) An optical symbol scanner assembly according to Claim 6 wherein
2 said LEDs produce illumination between about 390 nm and 405 nm.
- 1 8. (Original) An optical symbol scanner assembly according to Claim 1, further
2 comprising an optical filter on said optical axis in advance of said imager device
3 for passing light fluorescing from said markings, but blocking illumination emitted
4 from said at least one diode.
- 1 9. (Original) An optical symbol scanner assembly according to Claim 1 wherein
2 said light-generating means includes an array of LEDs mounted at a distal face of
3 said housing and spaced from said optic axis.
- 1 10. (New) An optical symbol scanner assembly according to Claim 9 wherein said
2 light generating means further includes an electric drive circuit that provides a
3 forward voltage of at least 3.7 volts to each of said LEDs.
- 1 11. (New) An optical symbol scanner assembly according to Claim 5 wherein said
2 light generating means further includes an electric drive circuit that provides a
3 forward voltage of at least 3.7 volts to each of said LEDs.